

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A container for housing at least one device which contains radioactive material therein, said container comprising:
 - a first portion which includes a radiation shielding material;
 - 5 a second portion which, when associated with the first portion, encloses the at least one device; and
 - a structure for retaining the at least one device in said first portion in a manner whereby the radiation shielding material of said first portion contains more of the radiation emitted by the radioactive material than is contained by
10 only the at least one device.
2. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein substantially all of the radiation emitted by the radioactive material contained in the at least one device is contained by the cooperation of the radiation shielding material of the
15 radiation shielding material of the first portion of the container.
3. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein the structure for retaining the at least one device in said container is formed integrally with the first portion of the container, and said structure limits lateral movement of the at least one
20 device within the container.
4. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein the structure for retaining the at least one device in said first portion of the container is separable from said first portion, and said structure limits lateral movement of the at least one
25 device within the container.
5. A container as claimed in claim 4 wherein said structure for retaining the at least one device in said first portion comprises a sterilizable basket

including at least one recess therein, each said recess being adapted for retaining at least one device therein.

6. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein said structure for retaining
5 the at least one device in the first portion includes at least one recess for receiving and retaining at least one device therein, and wherein said container further comprises a means for releasably securing the at least one device in the at least one recess.

10 7. A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for releasably securing the at least one device in the at least one recess is selected from a friction fit or a form fit between said at least one recess and the at least one device, a mechanical fastener, and a thread provided in said at least one recess which mates with a thread provided on the at least one device.

15 8. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein the second portion of the container includes a shoulder which, when the second portion is associated with the first portion to close the container, is positioned closely adjacent to, or in abutment with, an upper surface of the at least one device in order to limit
20 vertical movement of the at least one device within the container.

9. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein the second portion comprises a radiation shielding material.

25 10. A container as claimed in claim 4 wherein the structure for retaining the at least one device in the container is a tray provided with at least one recess therein which is adapted to receive and limit lateral movement of the at least one device in said container.

11. A container as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one recess in said tray is formed to provide either a friction fit with a portion of the at least one device or a form fit with the at least one device.

5 12. A container as claimed in claim 10 wherein said tray further comprises a flange which extends along at least a portion of a periphery of said tray, said first portion further comprises a shelf positioned such that said flange rests on said shelf when the tray is located within the first portion, and said second portion further comprises a mating surface which cooperates with said shelf to
10 hold the flange and thereby secure the tray against vertical movement within the container.

13. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said second portion includes at least one holder adapted to receive and limit lateral movement of the at least
15 one device and being positioned on said second portion to be in alignment with at least one recess in said first portion when said first and second portions are associated to close the container.

14. A container as claimed in claim 13 wherein the at least one holder
20 extends to a location closely adjacent to, or in abutment with, an upper surface of the at least one device to thereby limit vertical movement of the at least one device when the first and second portions are associated to close the container.

15. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein the device is a magazine
25 containing radioactive seeds.

16. A container as claimed in claim 15 wherein the magazine includes a radiation shielding material and the first portion of the container cooperates with the magazine to shield the radiation emitted by the radioactive material.

17. A container for housing at least one device which contains radioactive material therein, said container comprising:

a first portion which includes a radiation shielding material;

a second portion which includes a radiation shielding material; and

5 a holder having at least one recess for retaining the at least one magazine and limiting lateral movement of the at least one device, and wherein said holder is removeably retained within the container.

18. The container of claim 17, wherein the holder comprises a tray having a
10 flange located on at least a portion of a periphery of the tray; and

the first and second portions of the container further comprise mating surfaces which cooperate with the flange of the tray to limit vertical movement of the tray within the container.

15 19. The container of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of each recess in said holder is formed to have a friction fit with a portion of each device to thereby limit lateral movement of the at least one device in said holder.

20. The container of claim 17, wherein each recess in said holder is form
20 fitted to the form of each device to thereby limit lateral movement of the at least one device in said holder.

21. The container of claim 17, wherein the holder comprises a tray having at least one recess adapted to receive the at least one device, and wherein the
25 holder further comprises a film to cover the at least one recess, thereby limiting vertical movement of the at least one device within the at least one recess of the tray.

22. The container of claim 21, wherein the holder comprises a basket
30 having at least one recess for holding the at least one device; and

wherein the second portion of the container further comprises a shoulder positioned such that the basket and the shoulder cooperate to limit both vertical and lateral movement of the at least one device within the container.

- 5 23. The container of claim 17 wherein the holder is made of a sterilizable material.